

natural and man-made disasters. Lt. Bradley’s presentation focused on the need for AED/Public Access to Defibrillation programs in minority communities. Both presentations were well received by the audience.

They met with several emergency management experts and explored a number of programs designed to increase the Department’s response capability. Lt. Bradley said, “Even with all that we are going through in the Department, we are years ahead of some urban jurisdictions in the area of EMS Quality Improvement and Homeland Security.”

Both members commented on how beneficial the conference was and recommended it to other colleagues.

Graduation Ceremony

DC Fire/EMS celebrated the graduation of Recruit Class 340 and EMT Reciprocity Class 8-R on March 11. The 14 members of Class 340 began their training on November 29. Among them are two internal cross-training hires, one a paramedic and the other an EMT. EMT Reciprocity Class 8-R welcomes two new EMTs to the Department.



Capt. Ken Crosswhite and Probationer Deon Prout, Jr. hand a citizen a free smoke alarm at an event held February 20. Members of Engine 17 went door-to-door in the 1900 block of 12th Street, NE to provide citizens with fire prevention information.

**HIPAA**  
Health Information Privacy and Security Week is April 10-16, 2005. The week is designed to raise awareness among healthcare professionals, their employers, and the public of the importance of protecting the privacy, confidentiality, and security of personal health information. During the week, the DCFEMS Office of Information and Privacy will work to educate field providers about their rights and responsibilities related to the use and disclosure of Protected Health Information (PHI). PHI – We must protect it!

Upcoming Anniversary – Engine 30/Truck 17

On April 2, from 1000 to 1500 hours, Engine 30 and Truck 17 will host an open house honoring their 50th Anniversary. All are welcome to attend.

DCFEMS 4-1-1

Congratulations to Firefighter Jan Sipes (E-30-1) on the birth of his daughter, Maclaine, on February 20. Congratulations also to EMT Ebony Taylor (A-12) on the birth of her daughter, Dakota, on March 15.

The Department regrets the passing of the following active and retired members:

- Paramedic Judith D. Caldwell who passed away on February 1,
- Retired Firefighter Joseph L. Smith who passed away on February 27,
- Retired Firefighter Harold J. Magreder who passed away on March 8,
- Retired Firefighter Clinton (Pete) Trott who passed away on March 9, and
- Retired Firefighter William M. Morgan who passed away on March 10.



# BEACON

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Fire/EMS Chief Thompson speaks to young men about firefighting careers at The Working Men Who Care Inc’s Third Annual Fellas Day Out 2005 on February 19

DCFEMS Oversight Hearing – March 7

Fire/EMS Chief Thompson testified before the City Council’s Committee on the Judiciary during the Department’s annual Oversight Hearing on March 7. He spoke about accomplishments over the past year, and goals for the future. Among the accomplishments are graduating 203 new firefighter/EMTs from the Training Academy in 2004, continued progress towards a fully dual-role cross-trained department, responding to 140,585 requests for emergency assistance in FY 2004, and training 2,501 citizens to perform CPR.

“The members of this Department display a true commitment to service, and are ready to respond at a moment’s notice for emergency incidents that range from small fires or minor injuries to the potential dangers of a post-September 11 world,” said Chief Thompson in his testimony. “We have made great progress over the past year. Of course, challenges remain and we are committed to ongoing steady improvement.” The Department’s Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Hearing is scheduled for April 14.

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★★★ **Adrian H. Thompson,**  
**Fire/EMS Chief**  
**Anthony A. Williams, Mayor**

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Please e-mail your births, deaths, retirements, marriages or other personal news to share to [gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov](mailto:gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov). Submissions are requested no later than the third Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.

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## DCFEMS Reads at Friendship Edison Charter School



Firefighter Mike Hill, E-14-1, reads to a class.

The Office of Customer Service joined with Friendship Edison Charter School to organize an exciting reading partnership. Members of Engines 8, 18, Truck 7 and 30, and other DCFEMS staff volunteers read books to children ranging from Kindergarten to 5th grade over a four-day period. Outreach projects like this are an important part of the Department's community service mission.

Friendship Edison Charter School sends their thanks to those who participated. All the readers were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for participating in this project.

## Working Together To Make the City Safe

On March 8 Inspector Brenda Fenton conducted a 4-hour *Train the Trainer* session for more than 120 supervisors from hotels across the city. The purpose of this and future trainings is to teach employees hotel fire safety, and ways to safeguard themselves and their visitors in the event of an emergency. This is just one of the ways DCFEMS and



Fire at 14th and Seaton Place, NW on March 9.

the Hotel Association of Washington, DC, are working together to help keep citizens and visitors safe. Also in attendance were Fire/EMS Chief Thompson, Deputy Fire Chief Kenneth Watts, Fire Inspector Victor Rollins, and Fire Safety Educator Aleazor Taylor.

## DCFEMS Is Keeping Homes Safe in Ward 6

The Fire Prevention Division and Fire Safety Educators are reaching out to Ward 6 families through a special home safety project. Working on a grant funded by FEMA and The National Safe Kids Campaign, fire inspectors and educators will conduct fire safety presentations and home safety surveys in 250 Ward 6 homes. The Customer Service Office is working hard to identify families to volunteer for the program. To date, more than 50 families are scheduled and, seven homes have been inspected and educated. This home fire safety project started in March and is expected to continue into the summer.

## Cadets Reach Out to Latin American Youth

On March 11, Cadets assigned to the Public Education Section of the Fire Prevention Division participated in the first of three Latin American Youth Center Health Fairs. The health fair was held for 100 students at Adams Elementary School on 19th Street, NW. Topics discussed were: smoke alarm safety and maintenance in the home; Stop, Drop and Roll; emergency evacuation procedures; and the dangers of playing with lighters and matches. Future fairs will be held at Bruce-Monroe Elementary and A. Lincoln Middle School.

## Safe Place Project Revitalization

The Department's Community Service/Community Outreach Office, in collaboration with Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc., is



Two-alarm fire at 1629 L Street, NE on March 8.

working to strengthen DCFEMS' participation in Project Safe Place. The Department has been a partner organization in the Project since 1992. Project Safe Place is a national program providing a "safe place" for youth in need of crisis-related help. Safe Place locations are identified by the Safe Place sign displayed on firehouses and other businesses or



community organizations. Each DCFEMS firehouse receives Safe Place signs, information booklets, and information on how to deal with situations that may arise from troubled youth coming to them for assistance. FEMS firehouses provide temporary shelter until Safe Place staff can arrive to pick up a youth in need. On April 20 the Department will host a kick-off event with representatives from Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc.

## Fire/EMS Exceeds Last Year's One Fund Contributions

Congratulations! DCFEMS members have contributed more than \$45,770 towards the 50th Annual DC One Fund Campaign, and we have exceeded our contribution to last year's campaign. For those who are interested, there is still time to contribute. Pledge cards should be forwarded through company captains to the Customer Service Office in the Grimke Building.

## DCFEMS on the Web

Information about the Department's Automated External Defibrillator/Public Access to Defibrillation program is now available on the DCFEMS public website, <http://fems.dc.gov>, under "Automated External Defibrillation Program." Also, the FEMS internal intranet site is being developed. Members interested in suggesting content for this internal site can contact Raj Kaur at (202) 673-3155. DCFEMS internal intranet web pages can be found at <http://fems.in.dc.gov>.

## FEMS Officials Serve as Panelists at Conference of Minority Public Administrators

Lt. Claude Ford and EMS Lt. Arthur Bradley served as presenters and panelists at the American Society for Public Administration; Conference of Minority Public Administrations in February. This conference provided a diverse population of public administrators and academic professionals an opportunity to exchange ideas, debate issues, and celebrate achievements in the field of public administration.

Lt. Ford's presentation addressed the need to have a diverse emergency management workforce to ensure that minorities are prepared and able to survive following



Firefighters assist seniors from St. Mary's Court fire at 725 24th Street, NW on March 1.

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